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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, TO BE HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action "aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", in which, inter alia, it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to "organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts".

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 calling for coordinated assistance of the specialized agencies to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

3. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, by its adoption of resolution 48/52 of 10 December 1993 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" approved, inter alia, the recommendation of the Special Committee that it hold a seminar at United Nations Headquarters in 1994, to be attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In making that recommendation, the Committee was of the view that the results of the 1994 seminar would be useful in carrying out in 1995 a mid-term review of the plan of action.

II. PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEMINAR

4. The Seminar will be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 10 to 12 May 1994.

III. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

5. The Seminar will mainly address political, economic and social conditions in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and assess the related situation

in those Territories. The Seminar will also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and development and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the viable and sustainable development of the Territories concerned.

6. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee in focusing its attention on the specific concerns of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this connection, the Seminar will give pre-eminence to eliciting a broad range of views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It will also secure the participation of the administering Powers, of special guests, particularly personalities who are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories, and of organizations and institutions which focus on such development; and, of selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with long and established experience in island Territories. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to formulating specific recommendations to enhance the social and economic development of those Territories.

7. The contributions of all participants will serve as a basis for the summary of discussions of the Seminar, which will assist the Special Committee in its future consideration of the remaining Territories.

8. In this connection, participants will be required to submit papers, which will also include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions, on the following topics as they pertain to the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee:

(a) Self-determination: its application to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) Heightening the awareness that General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 provides for the emergence of colonial countries as sovereign independent States;

(c) Heightening also the awareness of options available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 concerning their future political status;

(d) Economic and social development in the small Territories and their impact on the exercise of the right of the peoples of those Territories to self-determination;

(e) The problems of small, structurally open economies: heavy dependence on imports, a limited number of commodities and highly restricted internal markets;

(f) Food production: development of small-scale agricultural activities and of fisheries, as well as of programmes to foster agricultural and fishery production, conservation and diversification;

(g) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors, and on the environment; as well as provision of the required development assistance, training, education and communications;

(h) The issue of drug trafficking and money laundering in small-island Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) Development of financial management expertise and of skills necessary to negotiate and manage foreign investments; and gaining access to adequate information systems;

(j) Provision of the required assistance and access to information and expertise in the development of indigenous entrepreneurial capacities, as well as productivity improvement and manufacturing for export;

(k) Improvement in transport and communications to facilitate access to other countries;

(l) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(m) Implications for the island Territories of issues pertaining to the environment and to development, such as global warming, sea-level rise, sustainable development and Agenda 21;

(n) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief; financing of public works projects; and training for disaster prevention;

(o) International and regional cooperation in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters: provision of assistance and coordination of relief preparedness and prevention;

(p) Questions relating to the Law of the Sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(q) Policy development to ensure protection from pollution of the marine and coastal environment of small islands;

(r) Natural and environmental disaster preparedness: relief mechanisms in small islands in the Pacific and Caribbean regions;

(s) Provision of the required financial and technological assistance and ... ining to achieve conservation and management of living marine resources;

... Potential impact of climate change and the possible resultant rise in ... on the coastal and low-lying areas of small island Territories;

(u) The role of the specialized agencies, international organizations and regional organizations in the economic and social development of the Territories;

(v) Access of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with the aim of identifying areas in which technical and other assistance could be provided;

(w) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening both by the Territories concerned and by international agencies, namely, preservation and protection of marine resources from over-exploitation; sea and air transport; disaster preparedness and relief; higher education; research and development; and regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise;

(x) Access to information and expertise in the development of small-scale industries in small Territories;

(y) Importance of the dissemination of information, to and from the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on the process of self-determination and on the improvement of economic and social conditions in the Territories.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

9. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present report;

(b) The Seminar, which will be attended by all the members of the Special Committee, will be conducted by the Chairman and the Bureau of the Committee;

(c) Representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories will be invited to participate;

(d) Also invited to attend the Seminar will be the following:

(i) Representatives of States Members of the United Nations;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(iv) Representatives of specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(v) Special guests, particularly personalities who are actively involved in the economic, social and political development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(vi) Representatives of NGOs;

(vii) Appropriate media representatives.

Annex

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Preamble

The Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. a/

Rule 1

Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by its Chairman with the assistance of the Bureau of the Committee (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2

Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman and the Bureau members of the Special Committee will act as Officers of the Seminar. The Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur will be allocated specific responsibilities by the Chairman.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, one of the Vice-Chairmen shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3

Agenda of the Seminar

The Seminar shall focus on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to the remaining Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned and on issues relating to specific problems of small island Territories as a means of, inter alia, disseminating information on decolonization (see also para. 8 of the main document).

Rule 4

Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 5

Languages

(a) Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the Seminar. The working languages of the Seminar shall be English, French and Spanish.

(b) Statements made in any of the six languages of the Seminar shall be interpreted into the other five languages.

(c) A person participating in the Seminar may make a statement in a language other than the official languages, on condition that the text of such statement is made available in advance in one of the official languages of the Seminar.

Rule 6

Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Special Committee.

Rule 7

Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related resolution of the General Assembly b/ and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 9 of the main document).

Rule 8

Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering Seminar meetings held in public.

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 7 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 9

Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 10

Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall adopt a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Committee. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft summary of discussions of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The report of the Seminar, as well as the draft summary of discussions prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and for subsequent submission to the appropriate body (bodies).

Notes

a/ A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

b/ Resolution 46/181.